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MINNESOTA LIBRARIES



PUBLIC LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT, 1900-1936

Editorials — Later Library History — Carl Vitz Resigns — Frank K. Walter	382
The Public Library Movement in Minnesota, 1900-1936.....	<i>Clara F. Baldwin</i> 384
Regional Library Meetings.....	399
Salmagundi	404
Index to Volume XIV.....	407

Volume XIV

December, 1945

Number 12

LIBRARY DIVISION
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STATE OF MINNESOTA
ST. PAUL

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MINNESOTA LIBRARIES

Volume 14

DECEMBER, 1945

Number 12

Later Library History

There was published in the last issue of this publication an account by Ellworth Carlstedt of the public library movement in Minnesota for the period 1849-1900. This number continues that account with the publication of Clara Baldwin's history for the later period, 1900-1936.

During that period of thirty-six years Miss Baldwin headed the library movement in this state. First, as secretary of the now defunct library commission and later, as state director of libraries under the State Department of Education until her retirement in 1936, she witnessed nearly four decades of library history in the making. No other Minnesota librarian has participated more extensively and directly or exercised a more lasting influence upon library development than Clara Baldwin.

Her story of library progress is the story of slow and heartbreaking effort, of legislative opposition, compromise with expediency, inadequate books, struggling libraries, untrained personnel and poor financial support. To read her interesting account is to realize that our libraries of today and the progress they represent did not spring overnight into the full bloom of life. They represent years of hard work. They grew from out of the faith and patience of a former generation of librarians like Clara Baldwin who have devoted their lives to the realization of library ideals. Our own generation of Minnesota librarians owe them a debt of gratitude. It is especially indebted to Miss Baldwin.

Carl Vitz Resigns

After nearly nine years as Minneapolis librarian Carl Vitz has tendered his resignation effective January 1 to become head of the Cincinnati Public Library. His acceptance of this position was motivated by a desire to continue in active service for another ten years. In Minneapolis the law makes retirement mandatory at sixty-five. By retaining his present post he would be under compulsion to retire in three more years.

His departure from the Minnesota scene is to be regretted, particularly in these postwar years when his wise counsel and sound judgment will be needed by librarians here. His kindness of heart, human warmth and friendly nature have endeared him to all of those who have had the privilege of knowing him intimately. His vision, high professional ideals and achievements have earned him also the lasting respect of his professional colleagues.

As President of the American Library Association last year he served well and with much credit to himself and to the Association. He is chiefly responsible for the Library Development Fund which should have far-reaching consequences for the future of the library movement in America.

As a member of the Minnesota Library Association he has been unfailingly interested in every movement for improving statewide conditions. He has served on its important committees and has always given freely of his time and effort. He has been especially interested in the work of the LIBRARY DIVISION and its extension program for equalization of library opportunity. But in a larger sense he has been interested in everything related to improved library conditions, higher standards of service and the significance of the public library in the American community.

The good wishes of Minnesota librarians go with you, Mr. Vitz. They wish you well in your new assignment and congratulate Cincinnati upon their good fortune.—L. F. Z.

Frank K. Walter

On October 28, 1945, occurred the death of Frank Keller Walter, Librarian Emeritus of the University of Minnesota, distinguished librarian and internationally known as author and scholar. In his adopted state of Minnesota he was the dean of librarians. In 1943 he retired from active service, but maintained close connections with his profession and continued to follow his many bibliographical interests and varied hobbies.

He was born near Point Pleasant, Pennsylvania, on July 23, 1874, of "Pennsylvania Dutch" ancestry, and received in 1899 his B.A. and in 1900 his M.A. degrees from Haverford College. He studied also at George Washington University. He received a B.L.S. degree in 1906 and an M.L.S. in 1913 from the New York State Library School which he headed 1908-19, under the title of Vice Director.

Before coming to Minnesota he had served in the Forbes Library, Northampton; the Brooklyn Public Library; and as librarian for General Motors.

He produced a variety of bibliographical publications. These relate to the history of bibliography; abbreviations and technical book terms; library printing; periodicals for the small library and modern drama and the opera.

He was a frequent contributor to professional and scholarly journals. His memberships included Phi Beta Kappa; The Bibliographical Society of America; Gutenberg Gesellschaft; The American Library Institute; The Minnesota Academy of Science; The Association of Research Libraries; and the Library Association (English). As their president, he had headed the Association of American Library Schools; the Association of College and Reference Libraries; the New York Library Association; the Minnesota Library Association. He was a founder of the Twin City Ampersand Club dedicated to a love and appreciation of books.

His Minnesota activities were wide in range. As University Librarian he quadrupled the book collection, moved the library into its present new building, built up a collection of international reputation in many subjects, and in 1928 founded and directed the Division of Library Instruction of the University. He was also visiting lecturer at the Library Schools of the Universities of Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin and was both lecturer and consultant for the Library School of the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul.

After his retirement he devoted himself to many postponed tasks including revision of several of his books, a history of the University Library and the cataloging of an unusually choice private library.

Because of his wide knowledge and vision he was highly regarded. The University Press sought his advice; he often conferred with the M.L.A. or with the Library Division; he was on Post-war, State Planning and Legislative Committees.

To his friends and dealers in fine books Mr. Walter was known as a collector and a connoisseur. His private library included the choice titles on American humor, book collecting, librarianship, and old children's books. He loved the beautiful—whether it were fine bindings or choice flowers in the garden which he so carefully tended.

Always stimulating in conversation, brilliant minded and flashing in wit—with a quizzical smile and a twinkling eye, he met the university official or the humblest student with a personal approach to their problem. To all those who knew him, even slightly, he gave helpful and kindly counsel, and he backed up his decisions with conviction.

His life was unusually rich in satisfactions as compared with the average person. He had the capacity for enjoying many things. He was fortunate to keep his health until the last few months. He had many friends and was respected and admired by them all. His life work was such as to enrich and enlarge the lives of many and to make the world a better place in which to live. In his quiet unassuming manner he modestly walked the path of a road which will bear for all time the imprint of this man of letters and friend of librarians; his epitaph—the book.—CARL VITZ.

The Public Library Movement In Minnesota, 1900-1936

CLARA F. BALDWIN

The Public Library Movement in Minnesota, 1849-1900, by Ellworth Carlstedt, published in the September, 1945 number of MINNESOTA LIBRARIES, gives a comprehensive survey of Minnesota libraries during the Territorial and early State periods, and the development of early tax-supported libraries, following the passage of the general library law in 1879, down to the establishment of the Public Library Commission and the State Traveling Library in 1899.

In Mr. Carlstedt's survey, two significant developments are stressed: (1) The establishment of libraries by associations; and (2) The development of tax-supported libraries, and the transfer of association libraries to municipal control, which is a "story of cooperation from beginning to end. The libraries of the individual pioneers were inadequate—they pooled their resources and established an association. Because of a desire for more perfect cooperation the tax-supported library took its place. And, finally, to take care of sparsely settled areas, the traveling library system was introduced."

This survey, therefore, begins with the establishment of the Public Library Commission in 1900. No attempt has been made to cover the history of individual libraries, but to trace the general development of the library movement throughout the state, and to discover trends and factors which have influenced the growth of statewide library service.

I. State Direction

PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

The law providing for a system of traveling libraries and creating a State Public Library Commission was passed April 21, 1899. The Commission consisted of five members, three of whom were ex-officio and the other two appointed by the Governor.

The ex-officio members were the Presi-

dent of the State University (Cyrus Northrop, 1900-1911; George E. Vincent, 1911-1917; Marion L. Burton, 1917-1919), the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (John H. Lewis, 1900-1901; John W. Olsen, 1901-1909; C. G. Schulz, 1909-1918; James M. McConnell, 1919) and the Secretary of the State Historical Society (Warren Upham, 1900-1914; Solon J. Buck, 1914-1919). Members appointed by the Governor were Miss Margaret J. Evans, Dean of Women at Carleton College, Northfield (afterwards Mrs. George Huntington) and Miss Gratia A. Countryman, librarian of the Minneapolis Public Library. These two women continued to hold office until the Commission was merged with the State Board of Education in 1919.

The purpose of the Commission as stated in the law was to encourage the establishment of free libraries in the state of Minnesota and to make good books accessible to all residents of the state.

When the Commission began work in January, 1900, there were 30 public libraries organized under state law, 5 association libraries free to the public, and 14 subscription libraries. The problem of making books accessible to the entire state, through the traveling library, with a book appropriation of less than \$3,000 was almost overwhelming. But the challenge of this fertile field was met by fostering the library beginnings already made, and making known the possibilities of the traveling library service through advertising. The development of these two phases of work is covered in succeeding paragraphs.

LIBRARY DIVISION—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Public Library Commission as a board was terminated July 31, 1919 and the functions, powers and duties of the Library Commission and its appointees were vested in the newly created State Board of Education. The work was continued as the Li-

brary Division of the Department of Education including supervision of school libraries, as well as advisory service for public libraries and direct service to libraries, schools and individuals through the traveling library.

II. Traveling Libraries

EARLY BEGINNINGS

The idea of a traveling library for Minnesota was first suggested by Miss Gratia Countryman in 1893, following the establishment of the system in New York state in 1892. Circulars were sent out, proposing a cooperative plan between several towns, each of which should give \$50 to buy a library and then in turn exchange these libraries from one to another. This plan was never carried out, but the circulars resulted in bringing the idea before the people. In 1895, there was a bill before the Legislature, establishing University Extension. Included in it was a provision for an appropriation for books. Although the bill did not pass, it afforded an opportunity to lobby for traveling libraries and to interest a good many men in the plan.

In 1897, with the support of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs, another bill was introduced, but failed to pass. During the next two years, demonstrations were started in Hennepin County through the Women's Council of Minneapolis and a dozen boxes of 50 volumes each were soon in circulation. The Women's Clubs of Duluth, and later Mankato and Rochester put on similar demonstrations, so that by the time the Legislature met in 1899, one of the Hennepin County boxes was on display in the Legislature to convince the skeptics and the bill was passed establishing a Library Commission and providing an appropriation of \$5,000 annually for two years.

GENERAL TRAVELING LIBRARIES

According to the first section of the law which "created a system of traveling libraries," the first work undertaken by the Commission was the organization of a "state circulating library, from which any town, village or community within the State of Minnesota may borrow books."

Most of the first year's appropriation (\$5,000) was spent for purchase of books and equipment for the traveling libraries.

Circulars were issued stating the purpose of the Commission, and outlining the plan of traveling libraries. In response to these circulars, applications poured in much faster than they could be filled, and before the first of February, 1900, as many applications had been received as could be supplied from the appropriation for the year.

Before the first of June, 60 libraries were in circulation, 25 more were sent out in the following fall, and 35 more were ready for circulation in January, 1901. The first annual report of the Commission shows that 147 applications had been received up to December, 1900, while the statistical table lists 87 stations in 55 counties opened during the year. These applications were received without advertising other than the original circular sent out in the fall of 1899, and some brief articles in "The Farmer" and the "Farmers' Annual." Of these 147 applications it is interesting to note that the large majority came from country communities and small villages, 67 from strictly rural communities, 50 from towns and villages having a population of less than 1,000 and 30 from places over 1,000, only 12 coming from towns where there was already a public library.

Within the limitations of the appropriation, it was apparent that such a system could not possibly give complete service, but the numerous applications from all parts of the state proved that there was a real demand for books.

Meanwhile the several systems of traveling libraries started by Women's Clubs in Hennepin County, and in the vicinity of Duluth, Rochester, Mankato and Winona continued to operate, adding 33 traveling libraries to the 120 owned by the state at the end of the first year. These libraries were later turned over to the State Traveling Library.

Traveling Libraries for general reading were made up of fixed groups of 50 volumes each and later 25 volumes for smaller communities. Each library contained a number of books on some special subject, e.g. American Revolution, thus furnishing brief

reading lists which proved useful to study clubs in small towns.

The traveling libraries were lent to any town, village or community upon application of ten tax-payers who agreed to form a library association and be responsible for the proper care and safe return of the books and to observe the rules for the management of the library. Books could be kept six months or exchanged more often if desired, upon payment of the fee to cover cost of transportation. The rules were made as simple as possible, the chief requirement being that no charge should be made for the use of the books and that a record of circulation should be kept and reported. Libraries were lent to public libraries upon application of the library board and were subject to the loan regulations of the library.

A meeting of librarians of traveling libraries was called at the Federation building on the State Fair grounds, in September, 1900. The response was gratifying and enthusiastic reports were received from those present and in letters from those unable to attend.

In some small communities the traveling library became the nucleus for a local library, and gave new life to older libraries by furnishing a fresh supply of books at frequent intervals.

In the first biennial report of the Commission, the 52 libraries reporting showed a total of 3547 readers and a circulation of 12,958 books.

Reports from small country communities showed that 50 books were more than were needed to meet the demand, so that libraries of 25 volumes each were made up for country districts, in order to supply more places.

Juvenile libraries of 25 volumes were made up to be lent by themselves, or in addition to a regular traveling library. These proved to be of special service to small public libraries whose collections of children's books were small, and to school libraries.

The reports from year to year show a steady growth in number of books circulated, and a wider distribution of the sta-

tions until in 1907 every county in the state had at least one traveling library station, except those served by County libraries.

The general libraries in fixed groups continued to be used as the only feasible plan with the limited quarters and staff, but these collections were revised from year to year and new books were added in order to keep every collection in usable condition. Discarded books were sent as permanent loans to aid new public libraries and county systems just starting, and to lumber camps. Children's books were sent to rural schools and to children's hospitals. Pictures from discarded illustrated books were made into picture bulletins for loan to public libraries or mounted in scrap-books.

In 1909, the librarian of the traveling library (Miss Martha Wilson) made a trip of six days duration in the Southern part of the state, visiting 11 places, including a Farmers' Institute. In February 1910, the librarian accompanied the County Superintendent of Schools in Koochiching County on a 210-mile sleighing trip, visiting rural communities and schools for the purpose of establishing traveling library stations. Another trip was made in December in Northwestern Minnesota. In 1912, the traveling library was included in the exhibits sent out by the Agriculture School Extension Division on special trains, which toured the Northern part of the state, the Iron Range country and the Northwestern portion of the state. The librarian (Miss Helen J. Stearns) accompanied the exhibit and gave talks in the women's and children's car. These trips established valuable contacts with the traveling library patrons and were fruitful in opening many new stations.

In addition to the cooperation with the State Agricultural Extension Division, excellent cooperation was also received from the Country Life Committee of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs, the Minnesota State Art Society and other state organizations.

The University Weeks inaugurated under President Vincent's administration in 1912-13, afforded another opportunity to advertise the traveling library as well as to

present the need of community libraries.

Exhibits at the State Fair were held for a number of years, featuring children's books, reading lists and emphasizing the various services of the traveling library.

When the Public Library Commission was merged with the Department of Education in 1919, greater emphasis was placed upon work with schools. The librarian's report for the year showed that the traveling libraries had increased in 20 years from the 33 owned by clubs to 628 owned by the state, and had developed from a few boxes of books for recreative reading to a collection of over 30,000 volumes giving service in a variety of ways.

Through these years the traveling library system continued to bring to people on farms and in isolated communities books for information, culture and entertainment, which they were otherwise unable to obtain, because of distance from public libraries and difficulties and expense of transportation.

In 1932, with the removal to the State Office Building, a thorough reorganization of the collection was made, which was continued from year to year, as books outlived their usefulness, and new needs arose.

SPECIAL SERVICES

In the administration of club libraries, books for students and requests for specific titles or books on a specific subject, greater flexibility was needed to supply the varying demands. Consequently the general loan or open-shelf collection was developed and was designed to supply many different needs.

This collection was started in 1905, when revision of the traveling libraries was begun following their removal to the New Capitol, where shelving was made available.

From this collection service was extended in the following ways:

- (1) Special requests from regular traveling library stations
- (2) Home libraries
- (3) Books for students
- (4) High School debates
- (5) Books in foreign languages
- (6) Books on agriculture and home economics
- (7) Study club libraries
- (8) Individual loans

Special Requests

To offset the possible disadvantages of the fixed group system, six books on any subject requested, other than fiction, were included without extra charge, with a traveling library.

Requests from traveling library stations for reference material and books on specific subjects or specific titles were sent to the local librarian to be returned with the next traveling library.

Home Libraries

Home libraries of 10 volumes each were started in 1905, for the benefit of residents in isolated communities where it was impossible to secure the signatures of 10 taxpayers. These were lent to a single family paying transportation both ways and were selected to suit the individual tastes and ages of the members of the family. These proved very successful and resulted in establishing many friendly contacts, involving delightful personal correspondence.

Books for Students

Books on child study, psychology and teaching methods and aids (originally selected by the Department of Pedagogy of the University of Minnesota) were provided for teachers studying for professional state certificates or completing work for University credits. These were lent to individuals upon application signed by a school or county superintendent.

To meet the needs of Teacher Training Departments in High Schools, which require the reading of standard children's books as part of the course, a traveling library of 25 volumes was made up in 1912, including some of the best children's books in good editions with a few volumes on children's reading and story-telling. A leaflet containing an extensive list of the books on education in the traveling library was published in 1912 under the title "Teachers' Library." These lists were sent to teachers or students taking extension courses from the University.

Following the affiliation with the Department of Education in 1919, there was a marked increase in work with teachers and schools.

High School Debates

The High School Debating League began making use of the traveling library in 1904. Collections of books and magazine articles on the subject for debate for the year were sent to the director of each district outside the Twin Cities to be lent as needed to the debating teams.

Beginning in 1923, bibliographies of material available were prepared by the reference librarian and printed in the September number of *Library Notes and News*. Service was rendered direct to schools through the package library.

Books in Foreign Languages

A beginning was made by adding a few Scandinavian books to traveling libraries upon request from communities where such books would be found useful.

To this collection were added German, French and Polish books in groups sent with a regular traveling library on request, and afterwards groups of 25 volumes were lent to public libraries or to any station having a regular traveling library.

Easy supplementary reading in German and French were lent through the public library to High Schools conducting classes in modern languages.

These books proved their usefulness in the excellent reports of circulation in communities where there were many foreign-born who did not read English readily.

Books on Agriculture and Home Economics

Special services to Farmers' Clubs began in 1910-12 when books on agriculture, stock-raising, etc. were added to the traveling library on request.

In 1909-10, upon request of the Extension Division of the School of Agriculture, a FARMERS' LIBRARY was sent to County Fairs with the exhibit of the Extension Division. Through cooperation with the Agricultural Extension Division visits were made to 145 communities on the Agricultural demonstration trains. The county Agricultural Agents were also very helpful in circulating these books by loaning them to Farmers' Clubs. One agent converted his automobile into an agricultural book-wagon and helped

each farmer to choose from the collection which he carried along, a book best suited to his needs.

In 1906, Home Science libraries of 50 volumes were made up for the Women's Auxiliaries of the Farmers' Institutes, based on study outlines furnished by their organizer.

During the biennium 1912-14, the greatest growth is reported along agricultural lines. Of the 800 farmers' clubs in the state, 113 applied for libraries on agriculture and the supply was hopelessly inadequate to meet the demand. Public libraries throughout the state were urged to purchase more books on agriculture and to advertise them in their local newspapers.

A list entitled *The Country Book-shelf* was prepared by a Committee on Agricultural Reading of the Minnesota Library Association with the cooperation of the Agricultural Extension Division in 1925. It included about 200 titles besides books on agriculture for general reading.

Study Club Libraries

Requests from Study Clubs for reference libraries on special subjects began to come in during the first year, but it was felt that the demands for general traveling libraries must be met first.

A number of collections, however, were donated in 1900 by the Minneapolis Women's Council, Minneapolis D.A.R. and other study clubs, the New Century Club of St. Paul and the Winona Art Club. These gifts formed the nucleus of a useful collection on history, travel and history of art, the subjects most requested by study clubs at that time. To this nucleus, books were added from year to year in accordance with the demand, collections were subdivided and re-arranged and a picture collection was started.

Later on with the development of the open-shelf collection, libraries were made up to furnish material according to the club program. A leaflet entitled *Aids to Study Clubs* was sent to all clubs, except those in the cities and towns where the local library was able to supply material. Outlines were prepared for each subject to show the basis upon which books and pictures were se-

lected and to be of assistance to program committees. A collection of club programs was also available for lending.

The Commission kept in close touch with the work of the State Federation of Women's Clubs through membership on the so-called Library and Reciprocity Committee and by sending members of the staff to State and District Federation meetings. During the biennium 1912-14, 188 club libraries were sent out, including 3920 volumes, 4407 articles and pamphlets and 10,519 pictures, besides 731 program aids.

Individual Loans

In 1909, the requests for individual loans began to increase noticeably. A reference librarian was added to the staff to handle this rapidly growing development. In towns where there was a public library, books for individual loan were sent to the local librarian, who was encouraged to handle these requests and advertise the resources of the traveling library. These loans increased from year to year until in the biennium 1922-24, they numbered over 10,000.

The first World War brought only a light falling off in the use of the traveling library, but an increase in reference work. Clubs continued their study programs in spite of demands of Red Cross and other war activities. Many clubs having miscellaneous programs were served by package libraries. The Traveling Library Department had the added task of collecting and sorting books for camp libraries and shipping them to their destination.

In 1934, the librarian reports that recreational reading for CCC camps and camps for transients, books for their educational advisers, books for adult education classes, books for rural teachers working with the new curriculum and increased demands from general readers resulted in a circulation growth of nearly 10,000 books and 1600 pictures during the year.

The cataloging of the pamphlet collection and rearranging of the clipping and picture collections was accomplished through WPA assistants, assigned to the LIBRARY DIVISION.

Removal to the State Office Building in 1932 afforded another opportunity for en-

larging the open-shelf collection, and clearing out material which had outlived its usefulness. From that time on, a constant revision of the collection was carried on continuously.

Service to small libraries in book selection was emphasized, when new books listed in *Library Notes and News* were offered through loans to libraries for first-hand examination before purchase. Books on the A.L.A. Reading with a Purpose courses were also offered. Among other services offered were: aids in book selection; over-lending book service to other libraries, debate materials, pictures, traveling libraries for school use and to supplement collections of small public libraries.

III. Public Library Development

According to Section 9 of the law creating the State Public Library Commission, "the librarian or trustee of any free public library or the trustees or agents of any village, town or community, may without charge, ask and receive advice and instruction from the State Library Commission upon any matter pertaining to the organization, maintenance or administration of the library, and the said Commission shall, as far as possible, promote and assist by counsel and encouragement the formation of libraries where none exist, and may also send its members to aid in organizing new libraries and in improving those already established."

Section 10 required the Commission to keep statistics of the free public libraries of Minnesota and make a full report to each general session of the Legislature.

In the first biennial report of the Commission statistics of public libraries were printed, showing 30 public libraries organized under state law when the Commission began work in 1900, 5 association libraries free to the public, and 14 subscription libraries. To this number, 4 public libraries were added during the year, 4 association libraries and 2 subscription libraries.

In the first statistical table only 10 of the 34 public libraries reporting received an annual income of more than \$1,000 and

trained librarians were an unknown quantity.

With a staff of one, and a traveling library system to be organized, it was apparent that no aggressive program could be undertaken to organize new libraries, but response was made to every call, assistance was given by correspondence and brief visits were made whenever possible.

The traveling libraries gave new impetus to struggling public libraries, and encouraged the organization of new libraries in a number of small towns. Libraries were urged to organize under the state law and to secure the maximum tax levy allowed, at that time only one mill on the dollar, and in cities of over 20,000, $\frac{1}{2}$ mill.

LIBRARY LEGISLATION

In organizing libraries under the state law, many difficulties were encountered and numerous complaints were received by the Commission from many communities about the law, urging that it be revised to make it easier for small towns to establish libraries. At that time, if the city or village council refused to levy a tax for library purposes, the matter had to be submitted to vote, and it was difficult to obtain the two-thirds majority required. The tax levy limitation was too small, so that some towns receiving gifts for buildings had to introduce special legislation to enable them to meet the conditions of the gifts. Amendments from time to time to meet such situations made the law difficult to interpret, and resulted in confusion.

Accordingly, a full discussion of legislation was held at the M.L.A. meeting in July, 1902, and a committee of the Association was appointed to recommend a thorough revision of the law, so that it should be adapted to the requirements of all communities. The law was codified in 1903, the maximum levy was upped to 2 mills, and library boards were made appointive instead of elective.

At the M.L.A. meeting in Mankato, October, 1904, resolutions were adopted recommending the enactment of laws authorizing the extension of library privileges to the entire county in which the library is located and to surrounding townships. This

law was passed in 1905. It permitted library boards to make contracts with county commissioners to pay a certain sum into the library fund yearly, in return for which the library was made free to any one in the county. The law also permitted a library board to make similar contracts with the governing body of any neighboring town in their own or adjacent counties.

At the M.L.A. meeting October, 1912, the committee on legislation recommended that the law be amended increasing the tax levy from 2 to 3 mills; that the law authorizing county and township extension be made more explicit, providing for a definite tax levy and a more definite mode of procedure; that the school library law be amended to authorize school boards to house the school library in the public library when better administration could thus be obtained; and also to authorize the centralization of rural school libraries in a county library. The bill was passed in 1913, increasing the tax levy in villages and cities of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes to 3 mills on the dollar and authorizing a county, town, city or village board making a contract with an existing public library for its use, to levy an annual tax of not more than 1 mill on the dollar of all taxable property outside of any city or village wherein a free public library is located or which is already taxed for the support of any such library. This was done in order to place the county work on a more permanent basis by establishing a library fund.

In 1917, a bill was introduced in the legislature to permit county boards to establish libraries and levy a tax for support, to submit the question to the voters, and to make contracts with existing public libraries, or to appoint a separate county library board provided no library existed in the county. But the Library Committee of the House refused to even consider the bill, so the matter was dropped.

In 1919 the Library Commission was made a division of the State Department of Education. A new County library law was passed, that authorized boards of county commissioners to establish and maintain County libraries and levy a tax not to ex-

ceed 1 mill on the dollar on all property in the county not already taxed for library purposes. If there was an established free public library, the board was required to contract with the library. Otherwise the county board might appoint a board of 5 directors, whose powers and duties were the same as those of library boards in a city or village.

A thorough study of county laws was made by the LIBRARY DIVISION and a complete revision of the library law was included in the report of the State Board of Education upon Revision of State Aid, submitted to the Legislature of 1921. The proposed law provided for organization and maintenance of public libraries by county, city or village, with state aid for library service and certification of librarians, two most important factors in raising standards. The law failed to pass.

At the M.L.A. meeting in October, 1922, the Committee on Legislation recommended further revision of the county library law, increasing the limit of tax levy, making the establishment of a county library mandatory on petition instead of by vote, and providing for county representation on local library boards. This law was introduced in the 1923 session of the Legislature, but failed to pass. Other recommendations were for state aid for libraries, certification of librarians and library instruction in the University, but no further action was taken on these items at that time.

In 1929, a special amendment to the library law was passed authorizing school boards to maintain public libraries in places of less than 2,000. The amendment provided that in the case of a gift for a building to house a school and public library, the school board might appoint a library board and levy a tax of 3 mills for the support of the library. The school board was empowered also to appoint a library board of 9 members of which the members of the school board were members ex-officio. This legislation was passed to enable the village of Monticello to accept a building donated by Worth Brasie of Denver, at a cost of \$10,000. The building was located on the

school grounds and housed both the school and public library.

LIBRARY BUILDINGS

Gifts for library buildings from the Carnegie Corporation stimulated the organization of libraries, and resulted in increased appropriations for others already established. Gifts were made to Duluth and Mankato in 1900, to St. Cloud, Stillwater and Austin in 1901, and to other cities from year to year continuously up to 1919, when these grants were discontinued following the outbreak of World War I.

The largest number of grants were made during the years 1903-1908, a total of over \$1,000,000 to 58 cities for 68 buildings, including 4 branches in Minneapolis, 3 in St. Paul and 3 in Duluth and 2 college library buildings—Hamline University, St. Paul and St. Olaf's, Northfield. Of these grants 34 or one-half were of \$10,000 or less, and 20 were between \$10,000 and \$20,000.

The Commission made a collection of library building plans, and gave advice to library boards in planning buildings suited to the needs of the community.

These new libraries called for more assistance in organizing, and an organizer, who spent most of her time in the field, was added to the staff in 1909. Through her work a large increase was made in the number of visits to libraries to render technical assistance and to give instruction to librarians. The office of organizer was discontinued in October, 1917.

While the erection of these buildings became a stimulus to organization of libraries and in the beginning increased the amount of appropriation, the 10 per cent required for support proved entirely inadequate in growing communities, especially for those receiving less than \$10,000. In a paper on "Business Methods in Libraries,"¹ read at the M.L.A. meeting in Virginia, September 6, 1916 R. L. Walkley, then assistant librarian, Minneapolis Public Library, points out that eight libraries had not fulfilled their Carnegie agreements in the spending of money for library maintenance. The average spent, however, was considerably above the required minimum. But it was

¹Minnesota Library Notes and News, v. 5, p. 47, December, 1916.

apparent that the minimum of 10 per cent was entirely too low, since it would amount to only 30c per capita in the Carnegie libraries of Minnesota.

In addition to the Carnegie buildings, structures were erected by gifts from individuals: Rochester, Huber Bastian, 1895; Winona, W. H. Laird, 1899; Owatonna, Mrs. E. C. Hunewill, 1900; Sleepy Eye, F. H. Dyckman, 1901; Blue Earth, W. E. C. Ross, 1904; Pine Island, Frank E. Van Horn, 1918; Rushford, Mrs. Estelle V. Sprague, 1922; Cloquet, Mrs. J. E. Lynds and Mrs. J. J. DeLescaille, 1919 (to rebuild building destroyed by fire); Cokato, H. C. Bull, 1928; Faribault, Mrs. Thomas S. Buckingham, 1928; Monticello, Worth Brasie, 1929. Buildings were erected by city funds or public donations in Buhl, Chisholm, Leroy, Minneapolis, St. Paul and South St. Paul.

A summary of gifts to libraries was published in the 4th biennial report of the Commission, continued in the 5th, 6th and 7th reports, with supplementary lists in succeeding reports through the 10th.

PWA grants were made for library buildings at New Ulm and Rochester, in 1934-36 and library rooms were provided in municipal buildings at Bovey, Elbow Lake and Lindstrom. Repairs and decorating of many library buildings was also accomplished through PWA funds.

Libraries at Granite Falls, Le Sueur, Newport, Olivia, Taylors Falls and Winnebago are located in buildings owned by the city and about 40 others have rooms in the city hall, community building or school.

RANGE LIBRARIES

With the development of the Iron Range, a new library era began in that section of the state. A beginning was made in 1903, when Capt. W. H. McCormack organized the "Hibbing Public Library and Reading Room Association" for which certificates of membership were sold at 10c each. A traveling library was secured and located in a drug store. The Ladies' Saturday Club planned a series of entertainments for the benefit of the library. The sum of \$225 was raised and in the spring of 1906, upon petition of the representative business men of the city, the council voted to establish

a library and appointed a board of directors. The following year a Carnegie gift of \$25,000 was obtained and the library opened August 1, 1908, with Margaret Palmer, the pioneer librarian on the Range, in charge.

Meanwhile Virginia, which received a gift of \$10,000 from Andrew Carnegie in 1905, had opened its library May 11, 1907. Coleraine, with a Carnegie building costing \$15,000 was opened January, 1911 and Eveleth followed in July, 1914, with a building costing \$30,000, of which \$15,000 was received from Andrew Carnegie. The Chisholm library building erected by the city at a cost of \$25,000 was opened in May, 1914.

In Buhl, where the school library had served the public since 1915, a building costing \$33,000 was erected in 1918. The library at Kinney in the same school district was opened to the public in 1915. The same year, Mountain Iron received \$8,000 from the Carnegie Corporation and erected a building costing \$20,000, which was dedicated July 16, 1915.

Nashwauk and Keewatin public libraries opened in the fall of 1914. These libraries were supported jointly by the city and school boards and located in the High School buildings where rooms were specially furnished for the purpose of serving both school and community. The School Library at Biwabik was opened to the public in the fall of 1915.

Public libraries were also maintained in the village hall or Community Center at Aurora (1914), Bovey (1932), Ely (1924), Gilbert (1934) and Marble (1935).

All these library buildings were completely equipped for social service with club rooms and auditoriums available for organizations of many kinds.

Through the organization of the Range Library Club, excellent cooperation was shown by librarians in their work with the foreign-born. Each library made a social survey of its community and compiled booklists in foreign languages. A union catalog of foreign language books was compiled and placed in each library. This made possible an interchange of books between libraries.

With the generous support afforded by the large valuation of Range cities and villages, these libraries were enabled to maintain a high standard of service and equipment which became the despair and admiration of libraries in other parts of the state.

COUNTY EXTENSION

The County Library in Minnesota has been well-covered in an article by Jean Lehmann Holte, in *MINNESOTA LIBRARIES*² which traced its early history in some detail. In this account it is desirable to note briefly the influence of these early efforts on the general development of extension of library service throughout the state.

Since Minnesota is so predominantly a rural state, it was early recognized that the rural population could only be reached by extending the services of local libraries to surrounding rural communities. A good many libraries were gradually abolishing fees on the ground that these towns owed their existence to the surrounding rural community and that it was good policy to give them library service. The number of libraries charging a fee gradually decreased until in 1924 (the latest printed report) only about 25 libraries were reported as charging a small fee to non-residents.

Although only a few libraries adopted the plan of contracting with county commissioners for service, and the appropriations made were in most cases very small, the possibilities of county extension were constantly kept before the library workers of the state by presentation at various meetings, by exhibits at the State Fair and by meetings of various organizations. Efforts were continually made to advertise this plan and encourage the extension of library service to rural areas through an existing public library.

As stated in the paragraph on legislation, an effort was also made to secure state aid for this form of service, although it was unsuccessful.

SUMMARY

When the Commission was merged with the Department of Education in 1919, a

summary of progress revealed that public libraries had increased from 42 in 1899 to 153 in 1919; library buildings from 5 to 75; and traveling libraries from 33 owned by women's clubs to 628 owned by the state.

In the last printed report of the LIBRARY DIVISION (1924), 150 public libraries were reported, of which 117 were supported by municipal tax and 33 by library associations, civic leagues, community clubs or women's clubs. Only 6 places of over 2500 (urban according to the U. S. Census) were without a public library. Two-thirds of the public libraries were in so-called rural communities. Of the 33 association libraries, 8 were receiving small appropriations from the Council.

Association libraries continued to be organized, many of which were turned over to the municipality from year to year, although in the statistical table for the year 1935, there were still 47 small libraries operated by library associations or clubs.

This table shows a total of 132 public libraries maintained by tax support or public funds, 8 school libraries serving the public, with added support from municipal funds, making a total of 187 public libraries, which accords with Dr. Joeckel's definition, that "Any library which has been officially charged with the responsibility, or has voluntarily assumed the responsibility for providing free library service of a general nature to a particular community . . . has been considered to be a public library."³

IV. Publication

An important piece of cooperative work was undertaken by the Library Commissions of Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota. Finding conditions and problems practically the same in their respective states, it was agreed that printed matter which would be of value in one state could be utilized in the others and thus avoid unnecessary duplication of effort. In October, 1901, the executive officers of these three Commissions met in Madison, Wisconsin, to discuss methods and plans of cooperation. As a result of

²December, 1943. v. 14, No. 4, p. 101.

³Joeckel, Carleton B. *Government of the American Public Library* Introduction, p. X.

this conference, the Wisconsin Commission published a Suggestive List of Books for a Small Library and issued a Buying-list of Recent Books at frequent intervals. The Iowa Commission issued a quarterly bulletin, each Commission having its own edition with a special page for local items. The Minnesota Commission edited and published the first edition of the Handbook of Library Organization. Each Commission bore the first cost of its own publication and furnished copies to the other Commissions for the cost of printing, so that by means of this exchange, time and labor were saved and valuable library aids were made available.

This cooperative work led to the organization of the League of Library Commissions in 1904, which took over the publication of the Buying-list and Handbook, each Commission thereafter publishing its own Library Bulletin. These publications were later absorbed by the American Library Association, when the A.L.A. *Booklist* began publication in 1905. Copies of the *Booklist* were sent to every library in the state. The League of Library Commissions continued to be a strong influence in shaping library policy in the various states and promoted many progressive movements.

Library Notes and News (now MINNESOTA LIBRARIES) began publication in December, 1904, to serve as a regular means of communication with the libraries of the state. It contained announcements and reports of all the activities of the Commission, including a column for the Traveling Library Department, information on library matters of general interest, with notes and suggestions of practical value to small libraries and items of library news. It was published at irregular intervals up to September, 1908, from which time it has been issued quarterly. It also published announcements of the M.L.A., with proceedings of all meetings, reports of committees and many papers read at meetings. It was sent free to all libraries in the state and after 1919 to schools.

V. Library Associations and Meetings

The Library Commission and later the LIBRARY DIVISION always worked closely with the officers of state and local library associations in preparation of their programs. These organizations have had a large part in formulating library policies, promoting legislation for extension of library service and raising library standards and strengthening the cooperative spirit among the library workers of the state.

Of these organizations, the Minnesota Library Association is, of course, the most important. Its history is included in a special number of MINNESOTA LIBRARIES, September, 1942, published at the time of the 50th anniversary of the Association. In these two papers by Gratia A. Countryman on the "Early History of the Minnesota Library Association, 1891-1900,"⁴ and "The Minnesota Library Association, 1900-1942,"⁵ by Clara F. Baldwin, the contribution of the Association to library development in Minnesota is given in detail, including its work in establishing the Library Commission, the work of its committees on Legislation, Library Training, Education, Standardization and Certification, Publicity and Library Planning, all of which activities are touched upon in other paragraphs of this account. Joint meetings were held with the Library Section of the N.E.A. in 1902; with the A.L.A. at Tonka Bay in 1908; with the M.E.A. in 1919 and 1927; with the Wisconsin Library Association at Duluth and Superior in 1909; with North Dakota at Moorhead and Fargo in 1910 and 1928. The Association also participated in four regional meetings: Sioux City, Ia. 1925; St. Paul, 1930; Des Moines, Ia. 1932 and Milwaukee, Wis. 1939.

The Association also cooperated with meetings of school librarians at the N.E.A. in St. Paul, July, 1914 and with the Minnesota Educational Association which organized a Division of School Librarians in October, 1915. Library round tables were also held in connection with District meetings of the M.E.A. under the direction of

⁴Minnesota Libraries, September, 1942, v. 13, No. 11, p. 322.

⁵Minnesota Libraries, September, 1942, v. 13, No. 11, p. 327.

the Library Commission and the Supervisor of School Libraries.

The Twin City Library Club was organized in February, 1906, chiefly for promotion of acquaintance among library workers in St. Paul and Minneapolis. During the first season, monthly meetings were held at the various libraries for the purpose of becoming familiar with their resources. Four meetings a year were held up to 1909, and since then twice a year, its fall meeting being combined with the annual M.L.A. meeting when that association meets in the Twin Cities. The Club has taken the responsibility of arrangements for the library dinner on such occasions.

The Lake Region Library Club, organized in 1918, brought together another group of library workers, including a number of interested trustees. Meetings were held annually in May or June up to 1936.

The Range Library Club was organized in 1914, its first meeting held in Hibbing. In addition to the cooperative work described in the paragraph on Range Libraries, it helped to develop a fine esprit de corps among the splendid group of library workers on the Range and afforded opportunity for many enjoyable social contacts.

This organization was succeeded by the Arrowhead Library Club, which was organized in April, 1935 and has met twice a year through 1942.

The librarians of the public, school and college libraries of Moorhead and Fargo organized a library club for promotion of mutual interests, in 1906. A list of all the periodicals in the various libraries of these two cities was compiled and a copy placed on file in each library. The club was re-organized in 1928, and has held quarterly meetings since that time.

The Range Library Trustees Association was organized April 7, 1923 at a dinner meeting in Virginia, but no regular meetings were held until 1926, when the library boards were the guests of the Eveleth Library Board. Meetings have been held semi-annually. This association was active in urging the establishment of the Library School at the University of Minnesota.

In the Spring of 1909, the Commission

undertook the plan of holding local library meetings in various parts of the state. At these meetings, a group of librarians and trustees from libraries in the same neighborhood came together for a day's conference at the library most conveniently located. No formal papers were read, but a list of topics suggested for discussion was sent out with the invitation to the meeting. There was informal discussion of these topics and interchange of experience. In some cases, where local conditions made this desirable, a public meeting was held in the evening. During April and May, 1909, meetings were held at Litchfield, Luverne, Sleepy Eye and Fairmont, with a total attendance of 74, representing 17 libraries. In the Spring of 1910, meetings were held at Virginia, Red Wing, Brainerd, Alexandria and Morris, representing 21 libraries. The plan was continued in 1911, with meetings at Two Harbors and Rochester and in 1912 in cooperation with the District meetings of the M.E.A.

Other groups of workers in special fields, such as catalogers, hospital librarians have held meetings during the year and are responsible for the programs of round table meetings for these groups at M.L.A. meetings.

VI. Library Personnel and Training

In response to a resolution passed by the M.L.A. in 1899, requesting that a course in library science be added to the curriculum of the University Summer School, the Superintendent of Public Instruction and Dr. Kiehle, Director of the School, decided in favor of such a course, and the Library Commission was asked to take charge of it. The need for training of librarians in service was apparent since the small public libraries could not afford trained librarians. The school continued to be maintained by the Department of Education and was held each year, except 1919, until 1922. Although it was held at the University, no University credit was given for the courses.

In the 21 years that the school was conducted by the Commission, a total of 471 students were registered, not counting those

who returned for special lectures in succeeding years. Fifty of these were from other states than Minnesota, coming from as far distant points as Maine, Missouri and Montana. Of those who took the course, 23 went on to regular library schools and filled positions of high responsibility while many others became librarians of public and school libraries in Minnesota.

In 1923, credit courses in library methods were offered in the University Summer School in both the College of Science, Literature and Arts and the College of Education. The new University of Minnesota library building which was completed in 1924 provided excellent quarters for a Library School and the Division of Library Instruction was established in the fall of 1928 in response to a very definite demand by school officials, library boards and librarians and prospective students desiring training for professional librarianship. Frank K. Walter, University librarian, was director and under his able leadership and the excellent work of the late Miss Hutchinson, as assistant director and chief instructor, many well-trained and capable librarians have been graduated to fill library positions in Minnesota and in many other states, as well as some foreign countries.

Ten library institutes were conducted by the LIBRARY DIVISION in the fall of 1922, with a total attendance of 182, including librarians and trustees of small public libraries, school and teacher-librarians and heads of teacher-training departments. Six of these were held in connection with Division meetings of the M.E.A. in order to insure the largest possible attendance of teacher-librarians; and another in St. Paul immediately preceding the M.E.A. meeting.

Round Table meetings mentioned in a preceding paragraph were also valuable educational aids to librarians of small libraries.

The question of Certification of Librarians was given thorough study by a Committee of the M.L.A. appointed in 1920. A tentative plan was drawn up, to be administered by a Board of Certification of the M.L.A. This committee continued to function for several years, testing the proposed

plan by making a survey of librarians and library assistants. Registration blanks were sent to all libraries, and later the plan was modified to conform to the plan proposed by the A.L.A. The Committee was discontinued on its own recommendation in 1924.

Certification for school librarians was secured in 1925, amended in 1935.

In 1931, another committee on Certification and Qualifications of Librarians was appointed by the M.L.A. and a scheme of voluntary certification was endorsed at a later date, but all efforts to secure legal certification for public librarians have failed. This is largely due to misunderstanding on the part of many librarians and trustees, in spite of the emphasis upon a now retroactive plan that would not affect librarians already holding positions.

The Commission maintained a register of librarians desiring positions, and assisted library boards to get in touch with properly qualified librarians.

As an increasing number of graduates from the Division of Library Instruction at the University became available from year to year, a marked advance in higher standards of service was realized.

VII. Institutional Libraries

In 1909, under a liberal interpretation of the law, the Library Commission decided to include in its field the state charitable and correctional institutions then under the State Board of Control.

Miss Miriam E. Carey, who had been engaged as organizer undertook this work in addition to her other duties. She visited each of the institutions and began reorganizing the various libraries by training local officials or inmates to carry on the work. This plan was continued until 1913, when the importance of the work was recognized by the Board of Control and Miss Carey was appointed State Supervisor of Institution Libraries, giving her entire time to that field.

Her work has been ably continued by her successors: Miss Perrie Jones, 1928 to 1937 and Miss Mildred L. Methven, 1937 to date.

VIII. School Libraries

School libraries have been encouraged by state aid and made mandatory by standards of the State Board of Education for many years. School Library lists were prepared in the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and consisted of a compilation of publishers' lists, without much regard for principles of book selection. In 1909, the librarian of the Commission assisted in revising the Catalog for Public School Libraries, and compiled a Supplement to the list, issued in 1910.

Requests for aid in organizing came from many school libraries. Assistance was given whenever possible by the Commission visitors until, in 1911, the Department of Education created the position of Supervisor of School Libraries, to which Miss Martha Wilson, who had been librarian of the Commission since 1907 was appointed.

Quoting from her first biennial report "This office concerned itself with promoting school library interests in general, improvement of the rural school libraries, making school library aids available, urging instruction in the use of books in the high schools, more work in children's literature in the Normal Schools, attempting to raise the standards of service in school libraries, correlating the school libraries and the public libraries, giving advice in organization and the publication of school library aids, the preparation of lists, exhibits and talks at school meetings."

Miss Wilson left the office in 1917, and the work lapsed until August, 1919, when the LIBRARY DIVISION of the DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION was organized and Miss Harriet Wood became Supervisor of School Libraries, continuing in this position until August, 1936.

The School Library Lists were revised from year to year and supplements issued. Much attention was devoted to book selection, with the cooperation of a committee of school librarians.

School Library aid was increased in 1921, from \$25 to \$40 per building. A further revision of the law under which state aid was distributed to public school libraries was accomplished in 1935, when the law

was amended so that aid was based on the number of pupils in average daily attendance during the preceding year, rather than upon the number of school buildings. The amount of aid was based upon the national library standard of \$1 per pupil per year, with a refund to the school of 50c for each dollar expended up to 500 pupils, and 25c above that number.

Standards of service were raised through an amendment to the school laws in 1935 providing for certification of school librarians. It was further amended in 1935 to give professional recognition to school librarians, who were included in the group of special teachers.

Cooperation between school and public libraries has been a subject of much discussion at meetings of librarians, from both the school and public library viewpoints. In studying the situation in small towns, it seemed obvious that it was very difficult for places of less than 2,000 to maintain two libraries independently. A law authorizing the consolidation of school and public libraries under certain conditions was passed by the Legislature of 1913. This was immediately put into operation in Sauk Center and Virginia with good results. Later successful plans of cooperation were adopted in Chatfield, Fergus Falls, Madison, Mountain Iron, Redwood Falls and Wabasha. Under the rules of the State High School board, such combination was authorized when the public library was equipped to give satisfactory service to the school. The school board was then authorized to turn over to the library board the money to be spent for library books, which had to be selected from the state school lists. In the report for 1924, 52 school districts were operating under such contracts, including 21 rural districts. In 1921, the school library law was recodified, making definite provision for employing a librarian jointly by the school and public library.

An amendment to the library law, passed in 1929, authorized school boards to maintain public libraries in places of less than 2,000. Under this law, already mentioned in the paragraph on Library Legislation, the library board at Monticello passed out of

existence, and a new board was appointed by the school board. This arrangement made possible the acceptance of a gift of a building erected on the school grounds by a gift of Worth Brasie, a former resident of Monticello.

Even though no formal contracts were made, school and public libraries were urged to cooperate to the fullest extent in order to give the best possible service to the entire community, including the school population.

IX. General Summary

In reviewing the growth of the library movement in the first third of the present century, definite progress is seen, although it is sometimes very slow.

The Traveling Library system inaugurated in 1900 was serving the libraries of the state in a variety of ways and endeavoring to reach the population without library service. The

number of public libraries had increased substantially, but there were still far too many people without library service. The foundations for state-wide library service through the County Library had been laid, and were to be later built upon by the WPA library projects. The number of trained librarians had increased, largely through the establishment of the Library School at the State University. School library standards had been raised through certification of school librarians. The establishment of libraries in institutions had placed Minnesota to the forefront in this pioneer field of work.

Such progress has been brought about only through the cooperation of librarians and library organizations in promoting legislation, in planning and organizing standards, and in building up a fine esprit de corps among library workers in the state.

SUMMARY TABLE

	1900	1910	1920	1930	1935
Public libraries maintained by tax support or public funds.....	30	78	108	125	132
School libraries serving as public libraries (with added support from public funds).....				10	8
Public libraries maintained by associations	18	39	41	30	47
Total	48	117	149	165	187
County libraries			9	11	12
Population without public library service	1,147,852				1,015,159
Rural without	65%				39.5%
Urban without					1,005,901
					9,258



Regional Library Conferences

Of The Minnesota Library Association

In line with ODT regulations governing travel and meetings, the Executive Board of the M.L.A. did not schedule a state conference for 1945. When the war with Japan ended suddenly last August and when the ban on travel was subsequently removed, the Executive Board decided to sponsor a series of five regional conferences throughout the state in Duluth, Fairmont, Minneapolis, St. Cloud and Winona. Brief reports on these conferences which were sent to the Library Division are published below for the information of Minnesota librarians.—Editor.

DULUTH

The regional meeting of northeastern librarians (Arrowhead Library Club) was held in Duluth, October 25. There were 75 librarians and board members present. Mary Baker, librarian, West Duluth branch library, presided at the meeting.

At the morning meeting, Mary Alice Holmes, Children's librarian, Virginia, addressed the group on the importance and far-reaching implications of the Library Development Fund.

At noon the group met at a luncheon in the Lincoln hotel to hear Dr. Richard Barddon, president of the St. Louis Historical Society discuss "Today is Tomorrow's History."

At sessions held at 2:30 and 7:30 P. M. in the Y.W.C.A., those present heard Miss Helen Acker of the University of Minnesota faculty discuss "The Making of a Good Book Review." Miss Acker conducts a course in book reviewing at the university, also is an author. Her latest book is *Three Boys of Old Russia*.

Emily Mayne, M.L.A. president and Martin County librarian, was present and explained the purpose of the Library Development Fund.

New officers of the Arrowhead Club elected at the meeting are: Mary Alice Holmes, Virginia, president; Nancy Axtell, International Falls, vice president; Helen Young Prall, Hibbing, secretary; and Mary Baker, Duluth, treasurer.

FAIRMONT

The southwestern librarians met at Fairmont for a regional meeting on Thursday, November the 8th. Theme for the conference was MINNESOTA LIBRARIES FACE THE

FUTURE. 77 librarians were present. Of this number 22 were library board members, 12 were school librarians. There were 18 city librarians and 14 county librarians represented also. In addition there were 5 state and special representatives and 6 patrons.

Following a coffee hour served in the Central School Auditorium, Mrs. Ben Feinberg, Fairmont Library Board member, introduced Mr. A. A. Horton, President of the Board, who welcomed the visitors.

Hazelle M. Anderson, Library Supervisor, Rochester Elementary Schools, spoke on "Coordination of the Public and School Libraries." Librarians should cultivate the friendship of teachers advertising the library materials, she said. Both should work together to educate for democracy. Teachers in their turn should learn to get materials ready for themselves from the library.

Mrs. Margaret Leonard, Blue Earth County Librarian, reported results of a survey entitled, "A.L.A. Standards Apply to Southwestern Minnesota Libraries."

Even in southwestern Minnesota, according to Mrs. Leonard, there is no democratic equality of library service. Libraries have done their best job in service to children. With the end of the war, work with young people and adults must be stressed. The smaller the town, the larger the number of books per capita required. Questions posed were: Do you have registration? Do you serve readers outside the city? What is your relation to school libraries? How may your library offer help? It was on questions such as these that she sought information to present to the group.

Agatha L. Klein, Librarian of the LIBRARY DIVISION, talked on "Readers' Advisory Service." Mrs. Klein expressed the opinion

that libraries must provide more guidance for adults on special subjects. She believed that small libraries could utilize many of the books they now have in supplying the right book for the right person.

Mrs. Klein was followed by Odrun Peterson, Assistant Librarian of Gustavus Adolphus College, who discussed "Public Relations and Publicity in the Small Library." Public relations, Miss Peterson stated, is aimed at selling the library to the public and familiarizing the public with the library. The library should be display conscious, mindful of size, color, form, and that the simplest is most effective.

Mrs. Mark Gorman, State Chairman U.S.O. Scrapbooks, in her talk "The Serviceman and the Library" stated that since V-E day servicemen's requests have changed greatly. From tabulations Mrs. Gorman found that they range as follows: 1. Biography; 2. Scientific development; 3. Geography, especially of other states; 4. Religious books; 5. Sports, movies, mathematic quizzes. Last of all were requests for fiction and light love stories.

At luncheon at Hotel Augusta, Lucille Gottry, Rochester Public Library, M.L.A. Vice President and Conference Program Coordinator, presented the Library Development Fund Campaign. Pledges and cash totaled \$120. Ruth Ersted spoke on treasure chests, groups of children's books that are being sent to the war devastated areas. Mrs. Klein discussed the probable methods of acquiring surplus property for libraries. She also requested librarians to write brief local histories of their libraries for publication in *Minnesota Libraries*. Mrs. Gorman, Chairman of the Parish Libraries, Winona diocese, outlined the nature of the functions and work of these libraries.

Mr. H. P. Bradt, Vice President, Martin County Library Board, introduced Mr. Forrest B. Spaulding, Librarian, Des Moines Public Library, who gave an address on the subject, "The Library's Re-conversion Job." Mr. Spaulding answered four self-imposed questions: Are modern libraries obsolete? Of what should libraries consist? What types of service should libraries offer? How will libraries be financed in the future?

"In the library of the future, the dissemination of information will be more important than the circulation of books," Mr. Spaulding concluded. "This is the century of the 'common man.' No other public institution is as well able to serve the needs of the 'common man' as is the public library."

Mary Edwards, Librarian, Fairmont Public Library, served as Booklist Chairman, Mildred Brudvig, Fairmont School Librarian, as Exhibit Chairman.

MINNEAPOLIS

The Twin City District Conference of the Minnesota Library Association was held Friday, November 2, in the Coffman Memorial Union at the University of Minnesota. The theme of the program, which was arranged by E. W. McDiarmid, Eleanor Herrmann, Dorothy Ware, Agatha Lindner Klein and Melville Voight, was A LIBRARY PROGRAM FOR MINNESOTA. As summed up by Miss Margaret Greer at the close of the session, the program underlined two important deficiencies in the state's library services: first, the inability of the existing services to reach everyone in Minnesota, and second, the inadequacies of the services where they are available. Criticisms from within and without the library profession were offered.

One-hundred-and-twenty persons attended the morning session, which was under the chairmanship of Perrie Jones of the St. Paul Public Library. After a brief word of greeting from the A.L.A. and the M.L.A., presented by Marion Phillips for Emily L. Mayne, President of the M.L.A., a convincing appeal for further contributions to the Library Development Fund was made by Donald E. Strout of the Division of Library Instruction, University of Minnesota. The remainder of the morning was devoted to a discussion of various aspects of library service in Minnesota.

T. A. Erickson, Consultant on Rural Services for General Mills, Inc., opened the series of speeches with a talk on the social, economic and cultural factors in Minnesota and their implications for library service—a formidable topic, which Mr. Erickson handled with sincerity and ease. Statistics, usu-

ally difficult to get over gracefully in a speech, were cleverly presented by Agatha Lindner Klein of the LIBRARY DIVISION in her report of the inadequacy of library service in Minnesota. A more personalized talk was presented by Adelaide C. Rood, Librarian of the Sumner Branch Library, Minneapolis. Miss Rood discussed the place of individual libraries in state-wide library service. The place of county libraries in state-wide service was presented by Ethel Berry, Hennepin County Librarian, who drew liberally on her own experiences in her discussion.

Miss G. Irene Hayner of the University of Minnesota's Division of Library Instruction, closed the group of talks with a lively and thought-provoking analysis of the responsibility of the state government in state-wide library service. The program was followed by a general discussion of the subjects covered, and by a luncheon which ninety-four of the visitors attended.

Lewis Beeson, Acting Superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, presided over the afternoon session, where an audience of nearly one hundred heard three men outside the library profession speak frankly on the important needs in Minnesota library service, and how such services may be obtained. At the beginning of the session Dorothy Ware presented resolutions in appreciation of Carl Vitz, Minneapolis City Librarian, who will go to Cincinnati January 1; of the late Frank K. Walter; and of the late Lura Hutchinson. The resolutions, unanimously approved by the membership present, were prepared by a committee made up of Miss Ware, Miss Herrmann, and Dr. Strout.

First on the panel was Arthur Uppgren of the Minneapolis *Star Journal*. Speaking from an economist's standpoint, Mr. Uppgren presented today's pressing needs, relating them to the possible services of the public library. He was followed by A. F. Lockhart, Editor of the Minnesota *Union Advocate*, who gently criticized the impression of coldness and aloofness given out by librarians and libraries, and pointed out ways in which the groups he represented might be gotten interested in library service. Still more critical

of the public library was Julius Nolte, Director of the Extension Division of the University of Minnesota. Mr. Nolte had come to the meeting with brief reports from a number of individuals whom he had previously questioned, and who were non-library users; and he offered several constructive suggestions for overcoming public indifference to libraries.

A brief discussion from the floor, followed by Miss Greer's summary of the day's program, closed this extraordinarily lively meeting.

ST. CLOUD

The regional M.L.A. meeting held at the St. Cloud Public Library November 3 was attended by 10 trustees, 4 lay people, 3 hospital, 3 college, 3 school, 4 county and 11 public librarians, or a total of 38. Altogether 18 libraries were represented. The theme chosen for this meeting was *THE LIBRARY TODAY AND TOMORROW*.

Mrs. H. B. Gough of the St. Cloud Public Library Board presided at the morning session.

Aagot D. Hoidahl, Librarian Sauk Center Public Library gave a summary of the A.L.A. standards and Planning for Public Libraries as the goals to which libraries should aim.

Agnes Cowern, Librarian at the St. Cloud Veterans Facility, spoke on library work with the mentally ill. She pointed out that the 1,300 patients at the Veterans' Hospital could be compared to any cross section of an average small town in the variety of their reading interests.

Emily Mayne, President of the M.L.A. and Librarian of the Martin County Library, gave a summary of county library development in Minnesota and the possibilities of regional libraries in the northern part of the state where lower grade agricultural lands make tax levies inadequate for strong individual county libraries.

Mrs. I. E. Cornwell, member of the Advisory Committee of the Stearns County Library, presented a layman's view of County Library service. In listing the advantages of a County Library to a small community she stressed in particular the great

benefit the children have derived from it. Formerly when adults wanted to read they found some way to get books but the children in small rural communities had to depend mainly on the comics. In her own community at Cold Springs she had seen the pleasure the children were getting from the books in their county library station. Another group she mentioned were the servicemen's wives returning to their homes at Cold Springs during the war. They had found the county library a great help during those anxious months.

Rella Havens, Chief of the Circulation Division of the St. Paul Public Library, talked on the place of the library in home-planning—the many ways it can take an active part in community projects and in particular the help it can give in the present critical housing shortage.

At the luncheon session Emily Mayne spoke briefly on the progress of the Library Development Fund campaign and made an appeal for concerted effort to help put this state over the goal which had been set up.

As an illustration of the community interest which the public library can develop in other lands and people, the afternoon session was devoted to a talk on Norwegian life and folklore by Mrs. Hilda Naess Hildahl of Roseau, Minnesota, formerly a teacher of handicraft in Norway. When Norway was invaded by Germany Mrs. Hildahl wanted to do something to commemorate the life she remembered in free Norway. With this thought she started making dolls which depicted life in Norway and scenes from their songs and books. She had a display of about 70 of these dolls with her to illustrate her talk. This part of the program had been publicized locally so there was an audience of about 90 during the afternoon. The public continued to visit the exhibit until closing time that evening.

WINONA

The regional meeting for southeastern Minnesota was held at the Maxwell Library, Winona State Teachers College, Saturday, November 10. It was attended by 15 college, 13 public, and 12 school librarians.

The morning session was opened by Flor-

ence L. Butler, director of children's work in the Sioux City, Iowa, Public Library, who spoke on "The Librarian in the Community." She stressed the influence which the library can be in the community and pointed to the need for understanding it. Miss Butler, former Winonan, recently was appointed to the Newbery Award Committee.

Lucille Gottry, librarian of the Rochester Public Library, emphasized the importance of discussion groups or adult education in public libraries. Classes in parliamentary law and labor relations and films on timely subjects were suggested.

Irene Garrigan, children's librarian of the Winona Public Library, talked on the importance of the "teen-age" group. She said, "Our young people up to a few years ago graduated from fairy tales to the army and navy manual practically overnight. We are aware that while our children's rooms have often been used to capacity, it has not necessarily followed that the use was continued in the adult department. Somewhere we have missed a link. I am sure that missing link is the young person who felt out of place with the little folks and couldn't find books 'as good' in the adult department."

Importance of art in daily living was pointed out by Jean Larson, art instructor in the Rochester public schools, who made several suggestions on how the library could improve its art collection and extend services to the community.

Agatha Lindner Klein of the state LIBRARY DIVISION spoke on the necessity of readers' advisory service. She said, "Self-education through guided reading is the public library's primary opportunity in adult education. A fine book collection, well organized, is of little use if we fail to get the right book to the right person."

At the afternoon meeting, the Rev. Max Satory, librarian at St. Mary's college, presented a film on college library procedures. Mrs. E. J. Miller of the Winona library staff reviewed briefly about 25 recent books.

"New Patterns of Library Service" by Lee F. Zimmerman, state director of libraries, was read by Mrs. Klein. "Librarians and trustees must be receptive to new ideas, new forms of services, new challenges. They

must constantly seek new and better means of translating book values into human values," Mr. Zimmerman stated.

New services and personnel recommended for libraries were a public information bureau, a speakers bureau, a book service to shut-ins, a readers' advisor, a public relations director, organization of special reference collections for the use of businessmen,

and greater emphasis on adult education classes.

Miss Anita Saxine, librarian at the Winona library, was chairman of the program committee, assisted by the Misses Mildred Engstrom and Minnie Zimmerman of the Winona State Teachers college library, and Sister Eone, librarian at the College of Saint Teresa.

Inter Library Loan Procedures

- The LIBRARY DIVISION will loan free of charge to all libraries books and pamphlets in its collection. If it does not have the material in its own collection, the DIVISION will try to obtain it through another Twin City library if the librarian, in her letter of request, will state: "Secure from another library if not in your collection." Librarians requesting loans should *be sure to give author's full name, complete title, publisher, and date of publication if known. If a specific edition is wanted, please state.*
- All requests for inter-library loans must be sent to the LIBRARY DIVISION and not to a Twin City library.
- For books borrowed by the DIVISION from Twin City libraries for libraries out in the state there is a service fee of 25c for the first book, and 10c for each additional book borrowed at the same time, plus postage both ways. This service fee is intended to defray handling costs and should be enclosed inside the book pocket when the book or books are returned.
- Books to be returned should not be sent to the LIBRARY DIVISION but rather to the Twin City library that owns them.
- The borrowing library must assume responsibility for the care of book loans in its possession and must reimburse the lending library for any loss or damage.
- Borrowed material should be returned to the lending library on or before date due. Two weeks is the usual period of loan.
- Books returned to the lending library should be as carefully wrapped as when received. If they are sent insured, they should be returned insured.

S A L M A G U N D I

Surplus Property

At present plans are going ahead in Washington to make surplus property available in the near future. It is likely that all sales will clear through the U. S. Office of Education on the national level and through the State Department of Education on the state level.

In response to an earlier request by the LIBRARY DIVISION many libraries throughout the state sent in lists of articles they could use. Will those that have not previously done so prepare and send to us lists of types and quantities of materials needed. Describe completely your needs and be sure to specify one or more of the following as they may be applicable: type, size, dimension, length, diameter, weight, capacity, make, model, material, color, etc. Always specify quantities desired.

Postwar Economic Needs

Every community thankfully greets its returning veterans and every community faces the problems of changing from an all out war effort to readjustment for sound economic progress. With this the need for some sort of business information touches every one: boys and girls going into business, returned soldiers, employers and employees, anyone who is interested in earning money or in spending money that someone else has earned.

The small town library represents library service to most people. It has an obligation to meet these current needs. The Committee for Economic Development in its work for economic literacy has recognized the value of the library as the source of factual information on which business must base plans to meet future demands. Through posters calling attention to how "Your Library" may serve; through folders emphasizing the library's function in relation to community economic warfare, and through a handbook outlining steps in organizing

business library service CED has provided three tools for this work. The handbook as a condensed guide to business service shows what government documents, periodicals, trade directories already in libraries may be used for this purpose; how community contacts may be developed as supplementary sources of information and lists organizations interested in developing the business use of libraries. It includes as well a sample news story that librarians may use with their local papers. All told the CED Business Library Package is planned to provide the librarians with a nucleus for developing business service.

It is her obligation now to meet these community needs. A request for the CED Business Library Package, Committee for Economic Development, 285 Madison Avenue, New York 17, N. Y., is a practical first step.

Personnel

- Mrs. Winifred Brady Standing, formerly librarian of the Grinnell, Iowa Public Library, is now librarian of the Waseca County Library.
- Archer Egan, Minnesota '40 has been appointed to be head of the Fergus Falls Public Library.
- Myrtle Rundquist, Winona school librarian succeeds Mrs. Edith Hegwer as public librarian at Moorhead. Mrs. Hegwer goes to Billings as reader's advisor.
- Mrs. Florence Wellhausen, Watonwan County librarian has resigned.
- Fay Cuzner, on the staff of the Stearns County Library for the past two years has resigned to become Alexandria public librarian.
- Lucille Davis, librarian at Owatonna for the last three years has resigned to become librarian of the Ottawa, Illinois Public Library.

War Memorials

In the postwar years many communities will erect memorials to their war dead. Evidence exists to support the belief that popular sentiment is for living memorials—some of them libraries and book collections.

The recent editorials and articles appearing in the Minneapolis papers had much to do with shaping public opinion behind a living war memorial, preferably a new public library. In one county seat city of North Carolina, as well as in other rural areas, money has already been raised, usually by popular subscription, for the erection of memorial library buildings in the postwar years.

Recently Elbridge, New York, won first prize in a contest sponsored by the *Country Gentleman* for a combination memorial library and recreation building. Another New York town, Armonck, has received a fund of \$5,000 from Walter S. Gifford president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Co., to establish bookmobile service for outlying homes and schools. This is in honor of his son killed in action. In Pike County, Alabama, the American Legion is raising \$1,000 to buy a memorial bookmobile for the county library.

Memorials in the form of a collection of books are likely to become popular, too. Either a single book or a collection of books, donated to the public library by a friend or relative of one who gave his life in the war, is an eminently fitting memorial. The name of the deceased inscribed on a special bookplate, is perpetuated during the life of the book. This type of memorial is especially fitted to the small community where those who died are generally known to all.

Small towns and cities in Minnesota anxious to erect suitable living memorials to their dead should seriously consider the library. Librarians and trustees should assume the leadership and project the idea into the thinking of the community. In the words of Carl Vitz library memorials are desirable because:

Libraries have many qualities peculiar to them which recommend them as memorials. They have always preserved the best that man has thought

and done, so becoming memorials to the best in man. . . . The library's role does not change with the years; it will always be the democratic educational agency it now is. . . . Not all heroes are dead heroes; we should commemorate the men who return alive as well. . . . The universality of its service makes a library a fitting memorial to men who have died to preserve democracy. . . . By educating people to their national and international responsibilities, the library plays an important part in preventing future wars. . . . Because of its place in the community, the library can furnish the spot for some tangible monument: the roster of names. . . . The spirit of a library is in keeping with a memorial.

On Range Program

Carl Vitz and Lee Zimmerman were guest speakers at the fall meeting of the Range Library Trustees Association held in Eveleth on November 2. Mr. Zimmerman who was the afternoon speaker addressed the Association on "New Patterns of Library Service." His address will be published in a forthcoming issue of *Minnesota Libraries*.

Dinner was served at 6:30 and was followed by an address of welcome by John E. Aho, mayor of Eveleth. Following the welcome speech musical selections were given by a male quartet and later clarinet solos were rendered.

Mr. Vitz as after-dinner speaker addressed the group on the subject of "Back to Unfinished Business." Mrs. Emil Ahola of Virginia, President of the Association, presided and introduced the speakers. Mrs. S. J. Nicholas of Eveleth was toastmistress.

Approximately 100 trustees and head librarians were present from 16 libraries on the Range. This was an unusually large attendance in the face of the untoward weather conditions that prevailed.

\$1,000 to Finish the Job!

On the first of November, \$1,840 was reported to Chicago as Minnesota's contribution to the Library Development Fund. Grand as that showing is, WE STILL LACK \$1,000 OF MAKING OUR GOAL! —Is success or failure ahead for Minnesota? Washington, and Iowa, and North Dakota and Louisiana and Utah have more than made their goal. Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Vermont and New Mexico

are "out in front" with over 80 per cent of their goal attained. WHERE WILL MINNESOTA TAKE HER STAND?

You librarians, 200 strong, who have given, have given nobly—and praises to you! But what about the other 500-odd Minnesota librarians, whose names are not among those present on the list of contributors? *ONE-THIRD OF MINNESOTA'S LIBRARIANS HAVE ACHIEVED TWO-THIRDS OF MINNESOTA'S GOAL!* We are confident that the remaining 500 will come through and *FINISH THE JOB!*

Let's see how that thousand dollars that looks so big now, breaks down. Suppose just a hundred people give \$10.00 each. What does that mean—spread over four years? That means \$2.50 a year, two hundred and fifty pennies—*LESS THAN A PENNY A DAY!* We firmly believe that out of the 500 who have not contributed there are 100 of you who will want to give that much. Or break it down further. Suppose two hundred *more* people give \$5.00 each—or less than a half-a-cent a day over the four year period—that sends us 'way out ahead of our goal!

Will you put Minnesota out in front with the winners? Will you join in making the campaign a success? If you haven't contributed, won't you sit down NOW and send your check to Miss Phillips at the Minneapolis Public Library? If you've already given, won't you ask your neighbor librarian to give?

\$1,840 down, \$1,000 to go—it's getting late—*LET'S FINISH THE JOB!*—Donald E. Strout.

Of Professional Interest

• *Pointers for Public Library Building Planners* by Russell J. Schunk (A.L.A. 1945. \$1.25) "attempts to supply a compact, simple guide to public library planning." The book is organized into two main sections: Part I discusses the general development of the library building project—its planning, site, team play in small and large library planning, selling the project, remodeling, moving. Part II gives specific pointers on actual construction and equipment.

• *Manual of Techniques in Library Organization* is a new 67-page manual which gives in a practical way most of the routine activities of library staff members in relation to obtaining and handling of books, periodicals, newspapers, and pamphlets. Included are: techniques, mechanical preparation of books, circulation, inventory, periodicals, binding, mending, pamphlet files, gifts and exchanges. It is available for \$1.50 from the Peabody Press, Peabody College, Nashville 4, Tenn.

• A supplement to "500 Books for Children," compiled by Nora Beust has just been published. Copies of this Supplement may be obtained at 5c each from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., the remittance preferably by check or money order, but not by stamps.

• *Buying List of Books for Small Libraries* by Marion Horton (A.L.A. 1945. \$2.25), has just appeared in the 7th edition. It is a basic list of 1,800 titles, most of them published since 1940. Included are fiction, non-fiction, children's books, picture books, and a classified list of pamphlet sources. Brief descriptive notes give buying information, simple classification number, L. C. card number.

• The GI Roundtable educational pamphlets heretofore issued only to service personnel are now available to the public. The pamphlets are intended as guides to group discussion, and were prepared by authorities. They are written in popular style. Cartoons, photos, and pictographs are used. Twenty-seven titles are in print and two new ones are appearing each month. They may be obtained for 15c each from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

• Librarians may obtain from the American Library Association, 520 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 11, five Thorne-Thomsen records. They are Gudbrand-on-the-Hillside, Sleeping Beauty, Boldur, Tales from the Volunga Saga.

The five double faced records are available only in sets of five from the A.L.A. at \$10 a set prepaid.

The LIBRARY DIVISION has a set which it will loan to libraries on request.

INDEX TO VOLUME 14

1943, 1944, 1945

- Adler, Mortimer J., 246
 Meaning of adult education, 232-234
 Adult education, 232-234
 Agriculture, 46-54
 Albrightson, Mrs. Inez, 123
 American library association
 Annual conference, 28
 Committee on intellectual freedom, 252
 Division of public libraries, 251
 Library development fund, 259, 266-268, 364-367
 Officers, 1943-44, 90
 Postwar standards for public libraries, 278-280
 Regional institute (Zimmerman), 35-36
 Regional institute, Minneapolis, 1943, 35-63
 American library association. Division of cataloging and classification
Catalog, 26
Yearbook, 26
 Anderson, Hazelle, 217
 Anoka county library, 101, 106
 Arrowhead library association, 84, 395
 Association libraries
 Statistics
 1942, 24
 1943, 150
 1944, 277
 Audio-visual aids, *see* Visual aids
 Automobile and the library, 71
 Axtell, Nancy B., 371
 Bailey, Mrs. Elva Barber, 281
 Baird, Helen, 85
 Bakken, Gena, 89
 Baldwin, Clara F., 99, 350, 382
 Alma M. Penrose, 228
 Public Library movement in Minnesota, 1900-1936, 384-398
 Barker, Tommie Dora
 County and regional libraries, 113-114
 Barron, Caroline, 117
 Bay, J. Christian
 Laudabilis et quidem egregie, 68-69
 Beeson, Lewis, 250
 Bell, Wuanita, 89
 Berry, Ethel I., 188, 247
 Blacklock, Mrs. S. S., 84
 Blegen, Theodore C.
 On the retirement of Frank K. Walter, 67-68
 Blue Earth county library, 6, 110, 166-170
 Boards, *see* Trustees, boards, committees, etc.
 Bond, Elizabeth, 373
 Today's challenge, 3-4
 Book dealers, 265
 Book week
 1943, 89
 1944, 251
 Booklists
 Adult books for
 1942, 29-31
 1943, 156-158
 1944, 282-285
 Booklist for small libraries, 189-190, 254-255, 295-346
 Juvenile books of 1944, 285-287
 Library division, 184-185
 Minnesota in print, 220-222
 Professional publications, 94-95, 127, 158-159, 222, 377-378, 406
 Religious books, 374-377
 Sports, 246
 War information in books, 27, 91-92, 125
 Bowen, Mrs. Evelyn, 89
 Waseca county library, 171-174
 Bowers, Rosemary, 27, 217
 Boyes, Alfred, 84, 85
 Brainard, Edith M., 88
 Brown, Agnes, 217
 Stearns county library, 175-178
 Budgets
 Allocating the budget, 87
 Unexpended balances, 86
 Buildings *see* Library buildings
 Burt, Roy E., 84, 85
 Caldecott award
 1942, 89
 1943, 184
 1944, 371
 Canadian wartime information board, 373
 Carlstedt, Ellsworth, 350
 Public library movement in Minnesota, 1849-1900, 351-363
 Carver county library, 105
 Caulfield, Gyla, 83
 Cerise, Helen, 88
 Censorship, 252
 Certification, 243, 396
 Certification, Voluntary, 215
 Check list of Minnesota public documents, 245
 Chicago university. Graduate library school
 Institute (1944) 182, 252-253
 Children's reading, 246
 New purposes in reading in war and peace (Leary), 135-138
 This is the children's room (Klune), 139-141
 Chillstrom, Mrs. E., 154
 Chisholm public library, 75-79
 Circulation
 Library division renewals, 184
 Clevenger, Louise, 36
 After the war—what? 38-45
 Coffin, Frank S.
 How shall we insure the library? 238-240
 Committee for economic development, 404
 Cooperation, 73-74
 Cooperatives
 Books on, 249
 Cordner, W. M., 118-119
 Council of books in wartime, 127
 County librarians organize, 217
 County libraries, 5-9, 99, 115-116, 393
 County and regional libraries (Barker), 113-114
 County libraries (Sneed), 164
 County library—how to get it! (Zimmerman), 212-214
 County library in Minnesota (Holte), 101-112
 Legislation, 88, 101, 371
 Postwar demonstrations, 8-9
 Public library for a whole county (Moore), 196
 Recent county libraries (Zimmerman), 163
 Statistics, 10-11
 1942, 23
 1943, 149
 1944, 276
 Why have a county library (Felton), 197
 Anoka county, 101, 106
 Blue Earth county, 6, 166-170
 Carver county, 105
 Dakota county, 105, 106
 Freeborn county, 6
 Goodhue county, 6
 Hennepin county, 104-105
 Itasca county, 103, 106
 Kanabec county, 6, 203-206
 Koochiching county, 104, 106
 Lake county, 102, 106
 Lincoln county, 6, 105
 Lyon county, 6, 182, 209-211
 Martin county, 6, 90, 198-202
 Meeker county, 103, 106
 Mower county, 6
 Nobles county, 6
 Olmsted county, 103, 106
 Ottertail county, 105
 Pennington county, 104, 106
 Pope county, 105
 Ramsey county, 103, 105, 106
 Redwood county, 6
 Rice county, 6
 Rock county, 101
 St. Louis county, 105-106
 Stearns county, 6, 175-178
 Steele county, 101, 105
 Stevens county, 103
 Waseca county, 6, 101-102, 171-174
 Washington county, 101, 102
 Watonwan county, 6, 89, 207-208
See also WPA statewide library project
 County library in Minnesota (Holte), 101-112
 County library associations, 107-108
 Culbertson, Ely, 124
 Cuzner, Fay, 404
 Dahl, Mae, 371
 Dakota county library, 105, 106
 Dalby, Leota, 250
 Davis, Lucile, 123, 404
 Discarding books
 Disposal of unneeded sets (Shove), 260-265
 Document dealers, 265
 Douglas, Mrs. Mary Peacock, 218
 Duluth public library
 Early history of, 353-363
 Friends group organized, 251
 Dunbar, Lillian, 371
 Economics, 46-54
 Education, 55-63
 Edwards, Mary, 123
 Eggen, Archer, 404
 Elder, Mrs. Katherine, 117
 Ersted, Ruth, 188
 Farnsworth, Mrs. Jane, 154
 Farquhar, Alice M., 218
 Fawcett, Lois, 247
 Fay, Adra, 118-119
 Felton, Ralph A.
 Why have a county library, 197
 Films *see* Visual aids
 Finances *see* Budgets
 Flagler, Harry Harkness
 On supporting the library, 165
 Freeborn county library, 6, 110, 111
 Friends of the library, 251
 Fudro, Mrs. Marion Schaeffer, 248
 Funk, Gladys
 Kanabec county library, 203-206
 George Henry Christian book fund, 372
 Gibbons, G. Louise, 371
 Gifts, legacies, etc.
 Gifts from special groups, 87
 George Henry Christian book fund (Minneapolis public library), 372
 Oberhoffer memorial fund (Minneapolis public library), 155
 Goodhue county library, 6, 110, 111
 Gottry, Lucille, 27, 93, 203, 245
 Gralow, Elenora, 217

- Greer, Margaret, 188
 Grogan, Maud, 281
 Grove, Margaret E., 123
 Haesecke, Marjorie, 154
 Hage, Elizabeth, 371
 Hall, Lelia, 217
 Kanabec county library, 203-206
 Hammill, Harold, 218
 Hannigan, Margaret, 89
 Harris, Mrs. Myrtle, 118
 Harvalik, Zabo, 84-85
 Haslen, Vivian, 123
 Hauge, Margaret, 250
 Havens, Mrs. Rella E., 123, 244-248
 On the alert, 131
 Haynor, Irene, 218
 Hennepin county library, 104-105
 Herrmann, Eleanor, 89, 188
 Hinz, Mrs. H., 250
 Hoidahl, Aagot, 371
 Holte, Mrs. Jean Lehmann, 99
 County library in Minnesota, 101-112
 Howard, Paul, 370
 Humphrey, Constance, 247
 Hutchinson, Lura C., 368
 Ihm, Elsa H., 27
 Illinois. University. Library School, Katherine L. Sharp scholarship, 123, 251
 Institutes *see* Library institutes
 Institutional libraries, 396
 Insurance
 How shall we insure the library? (Coffin), 238-40
 Interlibrary loans, 26, 183
 Itasca county library, 103, 106
 Iten, Lucile, 217
 Jederman, Ruth M.
 Fifty-first annual conference (MLA) 244-248
 Jensen, Ardis
 Booklist for small public libraries, 295-346
 Jensen, Helen, 281
 Jesness, Oscar, 36
 Economics, agriculture—what direction? 46-54
 Joeckel, Carleton B., 113-114, 252-253
 Johnson, Ernest L., 246
 Jones, J. S., 85
 Juds, Elsa E., 246
 Juvenile literature *see* Children's literature
 Kanabec county library, 6, 111, 203-206
 Klein, Mrs. Agatha L., 123, 252
 Booklists
 Adult books of 1942, 29-31
 1943, 156-158
 1944, 282-285
 Booklist for small public libraries, 295-346
 Minnesota in print, 220-222
 New books for the small library, 254-255
 Recent books for small public libraries, 189-190
 Klune, Frances M., 281
 Public library in wartime, 75-79
 This is the children's room, 139-141
 Knudson, Marie, 281
 Kojola, Laila, 371
 Koochiching county library, 104, 106
 Krauch, Natalie, 83
 Lake county library, 102, 106
 Lake region library club, 395
 Lane, Margaret, 250
 Larson, Mrs. Margaret, 123
 Laws, Library *see* Library legislation
 Leary, Bernice E.
 New purposes in reading in war and peace, 135-138
 Lennartson, Mrs. Merle, 281
 Leonard, Mrs. Margaret, 27, 370
 Blue Earth county library, 166-170
 Lerner, Leo
 This is our moment, 15
 Lewis, Glenn M., 117
 Librarians
 Librarian liberators (Mudgett) 80-82
 Libraries, Organization, 100
 Library aids *see* Book lists, professional publications, Subscription books
 Library buildings, 195, 252, 391-392
 Hibbing, 370
 Thief River Falls, 372
 Library demonstrations, 243
 see also WPA statewide library project
 Library development fund, 259, 266-268
 Librarian, what of the future? (Strout), 364-367
 \$1,000 to finish the job (Strout), 405
 Library division. State department of education, 74, 384-385
 Book renewals, 184
 Revised book lists, 184-185
 Recommendations for by planning committee, 242
 Library finances *see* Budgets
 Library institutes
 District meetings on war and postwar issues (1943)
 Hennepin county, 85
 Hibbing, 69, 85
 Minneapolis, 117-119
 Rochester, 83
 St. Cloud, 124
 Graduate library school of University of Chicago (1944), 182, 252-253
 Institute for public and school librarians, 218
 Regional meetings (1945)
 Duluth, 399
 Fairmont, 399
 Minneapolis, 400
 St. Cloud, 401
 Winona, 402
 Library laws *see* Library legislation
 Library legislation, 390-391
 Annual reports, 371
 County libraries, 88, 101
 Library boards, 88, 371
 Tax levy, 371
 Library planning, 229-231, 241-243
 Library schools *see* names of individual schools
 Library statistics *see* Statistics (Minnesota)
 Library training *see* Training for librarianship
 Library's bill of rights, 184
 Lincoln county library, 6, 105, 111
 Lindner, Agatha L. *see* Klein, Mrs. Agatha L.
 Lockhart, M. Janet, 188
 Lochr, Mrs. Nancy S., 89, 371
 Ludenia, Margaret, 89, 198
 Lyon county library, 6, 111, 112, 182, 209-211
 McCord, Mrs. Margaret, 371
 McDiarmid, Errett Weir, 88, 218, 370
 McEwen, Robert, 83
 McGregor, Della
 Juvenile books of 1944, 285-287
 McIntosh, Margaret, 123
 McLaughlin, Isabel, 117
 Magazine dealers, 265, 297
 Magazines *see* Periodicals
 Marinelli, Ann, 250
 Markley, Mrs. J. H., 123
 Martin county library, 6, 90, 111, 112, 198-202
 Matson, Charlotte, 117
 Mayne, Emily L., 89, 245, 248
 Martin county library, 198-202
 Notes on the Chicago institute, 252-253
 Meeker county library, 103, 106
 Memorials *see* War memorials
 Methven, Mildred, 188
 Milam, Carl, 370
 Minnesota library association, 394-395
 Armed services honor roll, 215
 Conference notes (Zimmerman), 227
 On the alert (Havens), 131
 Today's challenge (Bond), 3-4
 Upon this present (Smith), 259
 Committees
 Exhibits, 246
 Library planning, 241-243, 246-247
 Nominating, 245
 Registration, 246
 Meetings
 1944 (51st annual), 229-248
 1944, Tentative program, 216
 see also Library institutes
 Officers
 1944, 123
 1945, 245
 Election of, 89
 Sections
 Catalog, 247
 Children's and young people's, 248
 College, 248
 County, 247, 370
 Junior members, 248
 Reference, 248
 Trustees, 247, 248
 Treasurer's report
 1944, 245
 Minnesota library publications, 393-394
 Minneapolis public library
 Early history of, 351-363
 Film bureau, 154
 George Henry Christian book fund, 372
 Oberhoffer memorial fund, 155
 Tax levy, 370
 Vocational information service for veterans, 249
 Minnesota. State library commission, 362-363
 Minnesota. University. Division of library instruction, 396
 Summer session, 1943, 26
 Monson, Trueda, 83, 88
 Moon, Amy C., 28
 Moore, Edna C.
 Public library for a whole county, 196
 Moorhead and Fargo library club, 395
 Mower county library, 6, 110, 111
 Mudgett, Mrs. Helen Parker, 85
 Librarian liberators, 80-82
 Myers, Annette, 83, 84
 Nelson, Florence, 217
 Nelson, Ione A., 88
 Booklist for small public libraries, 295-346
 Pamphlet sources, 93-94, 126, 191
 Nelson, Mildred A., 123
 Newbery award
 1942, 89
 1943, 184
 1944, 371

- Newspapers *see* Periodicals
 Nobles county library, 6, 111, 112
 Noggle, Wave, 84, 85
 Oberhoffer memorial fund, 155
 Oertli, Ena, 89
 Olmsted county library, 103, 106
 Ottertail county library, 105
 Owens, Belle, 281
- Pamphlet lists
 Pamphlet sources, 93-94, 191
 Pamphlet sources on postwar planning, 126
- Pamphlets
 War information service, 25
- Pan, W. P., 84, 85
 Parcel post rates, 182
- Peck, Marie D., 88
 Reference service in Minnesota libraries, 12-14
- Pedersen, Harold, 85
 Pennington county library, 104, 106
- Penrose, Alma M.
 Obituary, 228
- Periodicals
 Competitor of libraries, 71-72
 List for small libraries, 297-298
 Union list, 182
- Personnel
 Postwar needs, 154
- Pfau, Mrs. Eleanor, 250
 Phillips, Marion, 123, 245
 Pope county library, 105
- Postwar planning for the library, 15, 38-54, 242
 Buildings, 154, 252
 County demonstrations, 8-9
 Memorial libraries, 281
 On the alert (Havens), 131
 Problems, 117-119
 Standards, 278-280
 Survey, 179-181
- Professional publications *see* Book lists. Professional publications
- Public libraries
 Postwar, 15
 Small library and its future (Veslak), 235-237
 Survey, 179-181
 User looks at . . . (Seeley), 132-134
- Public libraries, Minnesota
 History
 Early library history (Zimmerman), 350
 Later library history (Zimmerman), 382
 Public library movement in Minnesota, 1849-1900 (Carlstedt), 351-363
 Public library movement in Minnesota, 1900-1936 (Baldwin), 384-398
 Memorial, 281
 New
 Wabasso, 27
 Reference work, 12-14
 Statistics
 1942, 16-22
 1943, 144-148
 1944, 269-275
 Tax, 241
 Work with schools, 151
See also names of individual cities
- Public library standards, 278-280
 Public relations, 118-119
 Publicity, 108-109, 243
- Radford, Mary, 368
 Radio and the library, 71
 Ramsey county library, 103, 105, 106
 Randall, Mrs. Averil, 250
 Range libraries, 392-393
 Range library club, 395
 Range school librarians association, 84
- Range libraries trustees association, 84, 395, 405
- Reading
 1943, 154
 1944, 268
 Public prefers nonfiction, 373
 Recruiting for librarianship, 242
 Redwood county library, 6, 111, 112
- Reference books
 List for small libraries, 299-301
- Reference work
 Reference service in Minnesota libraries (Peck), 12-14
- Regional libraries, 115-116
 County and regional libraries (Barker), 113-114
- Rice county library, 6, 110, 111
- Robbins, Wallace, 36
 Education—for what? 55-63
- Robinson, Edythe E., 250
- Rock county library, 101
- Rosa, I. E., 83
- Rosholt, Ruth, 88, 117
 Victory book campaign, 124
- Rundquist, Myrtle, 400
- Russell, Harold G., 245
- St. Louis county, 105-106
- St. Paul public library early history, 351-363
- Salaries
 St. Paul public library, 182
 Schedules, 155
- Saxine, Anita, 217
- Schnickel, Mrs. Ella Addison, 182, 371
 Lyon county library, 209-211
- Scholarships
 Chicago. University. Graduate library school, 183
 Illinois. University. Library school, 123, 251
- School libraries, 397-398
- Seeley, Mabel, 118-119
 User looks at public libraries, 132-134
- Seham, Max, 117
- Selenski, Joseph, 118
- Seymour, Gideon, 36, 84-85
 After the war—what? 38-45
 Economics, agriculture—what direction? 46-54
 Education—for what? 55-63
- Sheppard, Shirley, 27, 250
- Shove, Raymond H.
 Disposal of unneeded sets, documents and periodicals in a public library, 260-265
- Smith, Jean Gardiner, 123, 245, 246
 Upon this present, 259
- Spear, Joseph H., 124
- Special library association
 Minnesota chapter, 182-183
- Sports and the library, 71
- Standard catalog for high school libraries, 27
- Standing, Mrs. Winifred, 404
- State public library commission, 384
 Training librarians, 395-396
- Statistics (Minnesota)
 Association libraries
 1942, 24
 1943, 150
 1944, 277
- County libraries
 1942, 23
 1943, 149
 1944, 276
- Public libraries
 1942, 16-22
 1943, 144-148
 1944, 269-275
- WPA statewide library project, 10-11
- Stearns county library, 6, 111, 175-178
- Steele county, library, 101, 105
- Stein, Benjamin J., 248
- Stevens, Grace M., 27, 369
- Stevens county library, 103
- Stevenson, Russell, 118
- Strang, Walter, 118-119
- Strout, Donald E., 154, 218, 268
 Librarian, what of the future? 364-367
 \$1,000 to finish the job, 405
- Subscription books
 Encyclopedias, 186-188
 Subscription books committee, 188
- Surplus books, 249
 Surplus property, 404
- Swedberg, Margaret, 217
- Theisen, Mrs. Ada, 123
- Thornton, Eileen, 89
- Thorson, Elizabeth, 248
- Thouin, Isabel, 248, 371
- Training for librarianship, 242, 395-396
see also Recruiting for librarianship
- Traveling libraries, 385-389
- Trustees, boards, committees, etc.
 Legislation, 88
 Library management and attendance at board meetings, 86-87
 Responsibilities, 120-121
- Tunis, John R., 246
- Twin city library club, 395
 Meetings, 250
- Ulveling, Ralph, 370
- Ulvestad, A. Ollie, 123
- University of Illinois *see* Illinois, University
- University of Chicago *see* Chicago, University
- University of Minnesota *see* Minnesota, University
- Uppgren, Arthur, 36, 118
 Economics, agriculture—what direction? 46-54
- Vaile, Roland, 118
- Veslak, Mrs. Ella, 247, 248
 Small library and its future, 235-237
- Veterans
 Vocational information service, 249
- Victory book campaign, 88, 182
 1943, 26, 124
- Visual aids
 Film bureau, 154
- Vitz, Carl, 26, 36, 227, 244, 250, 382, 405
 Frank K. Walter, 383
 Library planning in Minnesota, 229-231
 Millions of books, 249
 Preliminary to discussion, 37
- WPA statewide library project, 4, 106-112
 Appraising the WPA library demonstrations (Zimmerman), 5-9
 Publicity, 108-109
 Statistics, 10-11
 Supervision, 109-110
- Blue Earth county, 6, 110, 166-170
- Freeborn county, 6, 110, 111
- Goodhue county, 6, 110, 111
- Kanabec county, 6, 111, 203-206
- Lincoln county, 6, 111
- Lyon county, 6, 111, 112, 209-211
- Martin county, 6, 111, 112, 198-202
- Mower county, 6, 110, 111
- Nobles county, 6, 111, 112
- Redwood county, 6, 111, 112
- Rice county, 6, 110, 111
- Stearns county, 6, 111, 175-178
- Waseca county, 6, 110, 171-174
- Watsonwan county, 6, 111, 112, 207-208
- See also* county libraries

- WPA war information service
WPA assistance ends, 25
see also War information service
Wabasso public library, 27
Wallace, Sarah, 281
Walle, Michael, 84, 85
Walter, Frank K., 67-69, 88, 118, 244, 246, 383
Library planning committee report, 1943, 241-243
Some competitors of the library, 70-74
War and the library
After the war—what? 38-45
District library institute meetings, 83-85, 124
Public library in wartime (Klune), 75-79
On supporting the library (Flagler), 165
War information service
Public library in wartime (Klune), 75-79
War memorials, 405
Waseca county library, 6, 101-102, 110, 171-174
Washington county library, 101, 102
Watsonwan county library, 6, 89, 111, 112, 207-208
Wellhausen, Mrs. Florence P., 27, 208, 404
Wheeler, Joseph T., 370
Williams, E. D., 188
Williams, Perry, 117
Wright, Barbara, 36, 83, 85
Education—for what? 55-63
Wright, Fred, 117, 118
Yerxa, Katherine, 123
Zimmerman, Lee F., 405
Appraising the WPA library demonstrations, 5-9
Book list for small libraries, 291-292
Carl Vitz resigns, 382
Conference notes, 227
County library—how to get it, 212-214
Early library history, 350
History in the making, 99
Later library history, 382
Library buildings, 195
Recent county libraries, 163
Regional institute, 35-36
We are grateful, WPA, 4

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